

In the Specification:

On page 2, after “Related Application”, please replace the paragraph with:

This application is a continuation-in-part application claiming priority from U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/493,466 filed January 28, 2000 now U.S. Patent No. 6,371,906, which is a divisional of prior U.S. patent application Serial No. 09/334,531 filed June 16, 1999 now U.S. Patent No. 6,364,826, which is a divisional of prior U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/725,371 filed October 3, 1996 now U.S. Patent No. 6,015,378, which is a continuation-in-part of prior U.S. patent application Serial No. 08/531,363 filed September 20, 1995 of Borst et al. entitled METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TEMPORARILY IMMOBILIZING A LOCAL AREA OF TISSUE now U.S. Patent No. 5,836,311.

Applicants note a petition to correct the priority claim accompanies this response.

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, line 16 to page 4, line 2 as follows:

Next, a heart-lung or cardiopulmonary bypass is performed. This usually entails arterial and venous cannulation, connecting the bloodstream to a heart-lung machine, cooling the body to about 32 degrees Celsius, cross-clamping of the aorta and cardioplegic perfusion of the coronary arteries to arrest and cool the heart to about 4 degrees Celsius. The arrest or stoppage of the heart is generally required because the constant pumping motion of the beating heart would make surgery upon the heart difficult in some locations and extremely difficult if not impossible in other locations.

On page 13, lines 1-3, please amend the paragraph as follows:

FIG. 46 depicts an alternate embodiment of [[of]] the present invention, and in particular of a suction device that may be used in an endoscopic procedure featuring an arm with joints, and a pair of tissue engaging members and a spreader.

On page 38, lines 1-17, please amend the paragraph as follows:

FIG. 34 depicts a further alternate embodiment of the present invention, and in particular of a suction device 12 that may be used in an endoscopic procedure featuring at its distal end an

arm, i.e., suction arm 23, and a pair of tissue engaging members, i.e., suction paddles 22, each of which is coupled to a spreader means, i.e., spreader 180. The distal end of suction device 12 is suitably configured for delivery through a small, percutaneous penetration, for example a small cut, incision, stab wound, hole, port, cannula, trocar sleeve or the like. The term "trocar sleeve" appearing herein also refers to cannulae and ports. Suction arm 23 of suction device ~~[[23]]~~ 12 has a proximal end and a distal end. Although suction arm 23 is shown as having a circular cross-sectional shape, suction arm 23 may alternatively have a rectangular, triangular, oval or channel cross-sectional shape. As shown in FIG. 34, suction device 12 also features a handle 310 located at its proximal end. Suction device 12 may be coupled to a suction source 114 through suction line 20 (both not shown) to suction fitting 320 located on handle 310. Suction paddles 22 may be rigidly coupled to spreader 180 at 330, as seen in FIG. 34. Alternatively, suction paddles 22 may be rotatably or pivotably coupled to spreader 180 at 330, thereby permitting suction paddles 22 to freely or controllably move or rotate relative to spreader 180.

In the Drawings:

Please find enclosed formal drawings for this case.